



DR. DIANNA R. WENTZELL, COMMISSIONER

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## Schools of Excellence grants highlight proven methods for better performance

(HARTFORD, CT)—The State Department of Education today announced the winners of the Schools of Excellence grant, which helps top-performing schools share strategies for boosting student performance and replicating those practices throughout Connecticut.

The Schools of Excellence Best Practice grants were awarded to 15 schools across the state that have achieved and/or sustained high performance on state assessments. They will serve as Spotlight Schools and help lead efforts to replicate their award-winning programs.

“With this grant, we want to shine a light on the best practices for improving student performance and make them available to other schools and districts in the state,” said Commissioner of Education Dianna R. Wentzell. “These schools have earned recognition by excelling at high levels of performance. By taking their best ideas and putting them into practice, we will strengthen our efforts to turn around underperforming schools.”

The grant required applicants to describe a practice that the school seeks to share, grow, and replicate in the areas of implementing the Connecticut Core Standards, effective educator evaluation and development, student support systems, or approaches to improve and maintain positive culture and climate.

Schools were asked to summarize the results achieved by the practice—the impact on students, staff and/or families—and explain how to share this strategy with other schools through videos, webinars, toolkits, professional development, site visits, and other methods.

Grants up to \$25,000 were awarded. Eligible schools had to be Title I schools identified as Schools of Distinction or Title I schools in which high needs students outperformed the State High Needs Index in English language arts, math, or science.

Here is a list of this year’s grant winners:

## 2015-16 Schools of Excellence Grant Awards

District	School	Amount
East Haven	East Haven Academy	24,936
Bridgeport	Madison Elementary School	25,000
Bridgeport	Classical Studies Magnet School	25,000
Union	Union School	23,979
Ellington	Ellington Center School	25,000
West Haven	Forest Elementary School	25,000
New Britain	Holmes Elementary School	24,796
Meriden	Casimir Pulaski Elementary School	24,924
New Britain	Lincoln Elementary School	25,000
Naugatuck	Andrew Avenue School	16,159
East Haven	Dominick H. Ferrara School	25,000
Bridgeport	High Horizons Magnet School	25,000
CT Technical High Schools	Bullard Havens Technical High School	25,000
New Britain	Smith Elementary School	25,000
LEARN	Marine Science Magnet School	24,891

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